

A
L E T T E R

Directed to the

RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

Earl of Perth,
GOVERNOUR
TO THE
PRINCE.



L O N D O N,

Printed by *Charles Bill*, and the Executrix of *Thomas Newcomb*, deceas'd, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1700.

Die Lunæ, 17 Februarii, 1701.

UPon Reading this day a Letter communicated to the House by His Majesties Command, Dated 18th February, 1701, and Directed, To the Right Honourable the Earl of Perth, Governour to the Prince, These, It is Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled, That the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, do give Order, that the said Letter be forthwith Printed and Published.

Matthew Johnson,
Cleric' Parliamentor'

LETTER

Directed to the

RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

Earl of Perth,

GOVERNOUR to the PRINCE.

Friday 18th of February, 1701.

My Dst. Br.



Ince I promist to put in Writing what we had not time to talk fully of, I am set down to it in the Morning, that my Letter may be ready for the Messenger if any call.

I told you all that I had heard at *Versailles*, and the favorable Audience I had of *Madame de Mentenon*, for which I beg it of you to return my most humble Thanks to the Queen, and beg of her to be so good as to Thank *Madame de Mentenon*, and know from her what can be

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done

done in that matter. It will be a great Charity in the Queen.

I told you amongst other things the great Fleet the King intends to put out this Summer, the Orders being given, and the Money ready, the Stores full, and every one concerned Active in their Stations; There is no doubt but this Fleet will be Master of the Sea for some time, if not for all the Summer, because the *Dutch* dare not stir till the *English* be ready, and they have long Debates yet before they can be in a Condition to Act, if they have the Will; and it is a Question if they will have it at all.

The King never had so favorable a Conjuncture, if he can persuade this King that his Affairs are really in the Circumstances they are in, but there is the Difficulty.

The King and Queen have more Authority with the King, and with *Madame de Mentenon*, than any other in the World can have, but that's not all, there should be some one Acceptable to the Ministers, who should lay before them these Proofs, their Majesties cannot enter into the Detail of, and explain the Reasons, make Plans and Memoires by their Majesties Approbation, to Convince them of the necessity, and to shew the easiness of Restoring the King, the Glory it brings to their King, and the Advantage to Religion.

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How this will be done their Majesties
are wise enough to Consider, and I
think it is not a Subject fit for me to en-
ter upon, but their Friends in general,
who know not the half of what I know
in this matter, think that it will not be
well done by a Protestant Minister, Lazy
in his Temper, Enemy to France by his
Inclination, Tainted with Commonwealth
Principles, and against the Kings Re-
turning by any other Power than that of
the People of England, upon Capitulation
and Terms, who is suspected of giving
aim to the Compounders, if not worse.

That Mr. Carrell is qualified no man
doubts, but in Society with the other,
these who must be Instrumental will
not trust him as he ought, so that so
long as the other is within distance of
penetrating the Affairs, they will never
think themselves secure.

And yet the King has no such Game
to play as by these very Persons, who
are thus desident, namely the true
Church of England Party, the Catholicks,
and the Earl of Arran, and I shall say
something as to every one of them. The
King cannot but be sensible that the true
Church of England Party, and their Prin-
cipal Head now the Bishop of Norwich,
has been silent of a long time, and their
Majesties may remember what weight the
Court of France laid upon their joyning

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the King (I mean the Non-swearing Clergy) in case of a Landing.

Therefore all arts should be tried without delay to get them to enter into Correspondence again, and every Impediment ought to be removed, I say without exception, and though sometimes it is of hard digestion for Soveraignes who ought to be obeyed without reserve, to yield to the humours of Subjects, yet Prudence should teach them, when they cannot without hurting their Affairs do what they would, to do what they can, and remember the Fable of the Dog, who lost the Substance for the Shadow.

Assurances from the Non-swearers, the Soundest and Venerablest part of the *English* Church, would be of great use at this time, to persuade *France* to undertake this great Affair, for besides their owne Example at a Landing, and their Preaching and Writing to the People, that their Religion was in no danger, it is most certain they know better than any others can, what the Church of *England* in general would do for the Kings Service, and they being to run all the hazard, would be better believed at the Court of *France* than any other, as I found by experience.

As to the Catholicks and others Associate with them unfortunately for the King, they were thought to have too much

much Inclination for me, and so have been reckoned as useless to the King, but I must beg leave to say, that Undertaking was the best Feather in his Wing, and was most justly thought so by him, and by the Court of *France* too, even to that degree, they pretended if this and the other Article concerning the Clergy, could be made Appear, they would Concur with the King to Invade *England*. They Consisted of Seven Regiments of Horse and Dragoons, their Arms, Trumpets, Kettle Drums, Standards, &c. were all ready, and are yet in surety, their Men were all Listed, and their Officers Chosen, and they had twenty Horses to a Troop, which Troops lying at a distance in a Horse Country, twenty Horses would soon have Mounted the rest.

Those who could not divine the Greatness and the Use of the Undertaking, blamed the Rashness of it, and even some Churchmen have not been disapproved for endeavouring undutifully (because contrary to the Kings Written Orders) to break the Designe; but I desire you now for all this to believe, that you have not such another Argument to use to the Court of *France* as this, and if you could make it appear, as it might have been done some Years ago, I should have very good Hopes of this Summers Work. Nay let the King have what other

other Hopes, or even Promises you please from the Court of *France*, this is to be Encouraged, and if possible, to be put in the Circumstances it was in, for if ever there be a Landing in *England* to purpose, it must be before they can be armed, and they cannot be armed before the Parliament come to a Resolution concerning the War, and considering the few Troops in *England*, suppose these men to be no better than Militia, what a Diversion would it be.

It is not necessary for me to say any more of this Article; till I know whether their Majesties have as good an Opinion of this Undertaking as I have. If so I shall shew what I think to be done in it, if otherwise I shall save the Pains.

As to the Earl of *Arran*, it would be of great use to have an Understanding with him. He will have nowhere ~~any~~ can pry; his all is at stake, and he ought to be wary with whom he ventures to deal.

I think it better for the Kings Service, that the Court Party prevailed in the manner they have done in the Parliament of *Scotland*, than that the Country Party should have got their Will. Opposition swells the Waters to a Flood, and so long as the Country Party is not discouraged, they gain more Ground in the Kingdom than they lose in Government. So that
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the Disaffection to the Government will encrease, and one may judge of the Nation in general, which is of an other Temper than this pretended Parliament, or rather Presbyterian Rabble, ill representing the Nation. For since even in it, there is such a Struggle against the Government, what would there be in a Free Parliament, which the *P. of O.* durst never hazard to call.

The Nation then, at least a great part of it, being disaffected to this Government, it is of the last Consequence that *E. Arran* may know what to do in case of an Invasion of *England*, or in case he and his Friends be obliged for Selfpreservation to rise in their own Defence.

The Army who are and ever were well-affected, are to be gained by Money, and a little goes a great way with them.

The Disbanded Troops would be engaged, and the Officers are well inclined.

The Places of Strength would be secured, and such as can be put in Defence (without Expences) fortified.

To do all this, at least such a part of them as can be begun with, a small Sum will serve, and He ought to have Hopes of it, and of the Command.

These being only Heads to be discoursed of, and much to be said of every part, it is not to be thought that this Letter can carry a final Conclusion; for it may

be upon Discourse, I might change my Mind, or be more confirmed in, and see further.

This makes me insist again to you, upon two things as appearing to me absolutely necessary to put things upon a right foot.

The First is the removing of all Impediments out of the way, and sending all Suspected Persons to *Champagne* or *Burgundy*, according to their Goust.

And the Second is of the last Use, both to their Majesties and the Prince, which is the Establishing of such a Number, under no Qualification, to talk of their Affairs in their Majesties Presence, with whom we can freely converse and propose what may be for their Majesties Service.

As for the First, It will be for the Kings Reputation both at the Court of *Rome*, *France*, and with all his true Friends in *England* for many Reasons---

As for the Second, It is according to Scripture, In the multitude of Counsellors there is safety.

Nothing is so dangerous as first to Determine what one will do, and then hear Reasons against it, and immitate the deaf Adder who hearkens not to the Voice of the Charmer, let him Charm never so sweetly. Reasons against a Resolution taken, offend, and the more Force

Force they have, they offend the more, whilst before the Resolution be taken, Reason has its Effect, and the Determinations are not the Effects of Humour and Faction, but of Prudence and Justice.

If in any thing I fail, I'll Swear its want of Understanding, and not of Will. And I beg, that their Majesties may be persuaded, that it is not Humour nor Vanity, but their Service I have in my view, who am,

My D^st. Br.

Most humbly Yours.

There are no Letters from *England*, I expect and am promist----

I forgot to tell you, that the Con-
juncture ought to be improven so long
as the Court of *France* have the Ill Opi-
nion of the Pr. of *Orange's* Treachery
discovered lately in their hands.

Superfcription,

*For the Right Honourable
the Earl of Perth, Go-
vernour to the Prince,*

These.

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whilst before the Resolution be taken,
Reason has its Effect, and the Determin-
tations are not the Effects of Humour and
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It is my thing I say, the Spirit is
want of Understanding, and not of Will.
And I hope, that their Majesties may be
persuaded, that it is not Humour nor
Vanity, but their Service I have in my
views, who am

My Dear Sir,

Most humbly Yours,

There are no Letters from England, I
expected and am surprised
I forgot to tell you, that the Com-
missioners ought to be approved so long
as the Court of France have the ill Opin-
ion of the Pr. of Orange's Treachery
discovered lately in their hands.

Subscription

For the Right Honourable
the Earl of Portland
Secretary to the Pr.

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